

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tadahiro OHMI
Title: VACUUM APPARATUS
Appl. No.: Unassigned
International Filing Date: 02/14/2005
371(c) Date: 08/17/2006
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR §1.491.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The relevance of Document A1 is described in the present specification.

Documents A1-A4, listed on the attached PTO/SB/08, were cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding International application. A copy of the International Search Report is attached setting forth the portion of each document considered relevant by the examiner. An English translation of the foreign-language document is not readily available. However, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Although Applicant believes that no fee is required for this Request, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Request to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 17, 2006

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10/5897

MODIFIED PTO/SB/08 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

IAP11 Rec'd PCT/PTO 17 AUG 2006

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| Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: August 17, 2006 (use as many sheets as necessary) | | | | Complete if Known | | |
| | | | | Application Number | Unassigned | |
| Sheet | | 1 | of | 1 | Filing Date | 02/14/2005 |
| | | | | | First Named Inventor | Tadahiro OHMI |
| | | | | | Group Art Unit | Unassigned |
| | | | | | Examiner Name | Unassigned |
| | | | | | Attorney Docket Number | 039262-0158 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | U.S. Patent Document | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
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| UNPUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | U.S. Patent Application Document | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Filing Date of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Serial Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | | Office ³ | Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | A1 | JP | 2002-039061 | | DIA SHINKU KK | 02-06-2002 | | A |
| | A2 | JP | 10-252651 | | EBARA CORP. | 09-22-1998 | | A |
| | A3 | JP | 9-195976 | | KOKUSAI DENKI KK | 07-29-1997 | | A |
| | A4 | JP | 4-252878 | | TOSHIBA CORP. | 09-08-1992 | | A |

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--|----------------|--|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ⁶ | |
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|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.